

M E M O I R S O F L I T E R A T U R E.

MONDAY, April 14. 1712.

I.

A VOYAGE to the South Sea, and round the World, perform'd in the Years 1708, 1709, 1710, and 1711, Containing a Journal of all Memorable Transactions during the said Voyage; the Winds, Currents, and Variations of the Compass; the taking of the Towns of Puna and Guayaquil, and several Prizes, one of which a rich Acapulco Ship. A Description of the American Coasts, from Tierra del Fuego in the South to California in the North, (from the Coasting-Pilot, a Spanish Manuscript.) An Historical Account of all those Countries from the best Authors. With a New Map and Description of the mighty River of the Amazons. Wherein an Account is given of Mr. Alexander Selkirk, his Manner of Living and Taming some wild Beasts during the Four Years and Four Months he liv'd upon the uninhabited Island of Juan Fernandes. Illustrated with Cuts and Maps. By Captain EDWARD COOKE. London:

Printed by H. M. for B. Lintot, and R. Gosling in Fleetstreet; A. Bettelworth on London-Bridge, and W. Innys in St. Paul's Church-Yard. M DCC XII. In 8vo. Pagg. 456.

IN the Year 1708, several Merchants of Bristol fitted out Two Ships, viz. the *Duke*, commanded by Captain *Woodes Rogers*, and the *Duchess*, Captain *Stephen Courtney* Commander, and Captain *Edward Cooke* Second Captain, to cruise on the Coasts of Peru and Mexico, in the South Sea, against the French and Spaniards, and to act jointly, as belonging to the same Owners. On the 1st of August those Two Ships sailed for Cork, and on the 1st of September they left that Town, and came into the Harbour of *St. Vincent*, one of the Isles * of *Cape Verd*, the 30th of the same Month. That Island is not inhabited. It affords great Plenty of *Guinea-Hens*, and some *Hogs* and *Goats*. There is in the Woods abundance of large *Spiders*, as big as a small *Wall-nut*, and their *webs* are as strong as our common Thread.

* Those Islands are Eleven in Number, viz. *St. Antony*, *St. Vincent*, *St. Lucy*, *St. Nicolas*, *Sal*, *Bona Vista*, *Mayo*, *Santiago*, *Fogo*, *Romes*, and *Brava*. They are not all inhabited.

October 23. The Two Ships sailed from the Isles of *Cape Verd* to the Isle of *Grande*, on the Coast of *Brasil*, where they arrived the 20th of November. This Island, which is uninhabited, lies near the Continent, and is plentifully stored with Wood and Water. The Town of *Angra dos Reys* is on the main about Three Leagues from the Island; and tho it consists only of Fifty or Sixty Houses, there are in it Two Churches and a Monastery of *Franciscans*. The French Ships, bound for the South Sea, generally touch here to Wood and Water. Captain *Cooke* has inserted here a Cut of the Isle of *Grande*, with the Two Bays formed by it and the Continent. He describes several Fishes to be found there, and the *Shark* among others. "That Fish has Three Rows of Teeth, and a very tough Skin —. It is commonly attended by one or Two small Fishes, call'd (by the *English*) *Pilot-fishes*, which the *Shark*, tho never so hungry, does not devour, because they find out the Prey for him, he being of a very heavy Nature, and when he takes the Bait, casts himself on his Back —, and thus often seizes Men, as they are swimming, taking off a Limb at a Bite. — Tho extraordinary strong in the Water, he is soon drown'd, if you play with the Line, which is easily done". The Figures of that Fish and of some others may be seen in the Book.

November 30. The Ships departed from the Isle of *Grande*, and having sailed round *Tierra del Fuego*, steer'd their Course in the South Sea along the Continent, and on the 1st of February, 1709, arrived at the Isle of *Juan Fernandes*, without having touch'd any where. That Island, which lies off of *Chili*, is not inhabited. "The Duke's Boat went ashore, and found one *Alexander Selkirk*, who had been formerly Master of the *Cinque Ports* Galley, an *English* Privateer in those Parts, and having some Difference with the Captain of the said Ship, and she being leaky, he left the said Captain *Stradling*, going ashore on this Island, where he continued Four Years and Four Months, living on Goats, and Cabbages that grow on Trees, Turnips, Parsnips, &c. — He was cloathed in a Goat's Skin Jacket, Breeches, and Cap, sew'd together with Thongs of the same. He

"tamed some wild Goats and Cats, whereof there are great Numbers.

Here the Author breaks off the Account of his Voyage, to treat of those who have sail'd round the World, and of others who only sail'd through the Straights of *Magellan* and *Le Maire*. He describes those Straights, and the adjacent Countries. In the next place, he mentions the just Distances between all the Ports, Bays, and Creeks on the Coast of *Chili*; the Islands lying along that Country; the Shoals, Winds, and Currents, and the Course to be held in sailing from one place to another *. Afterwards he proceeds to give a Description of *Chili*, its Extent, Limits, Soil, Seasons, immense Wealth, Fertility, prodigious Mountains, Fishes, Birds, Beasts, Plants, &c. He mentions the Customs and Manners of the Inhabitants; and shews when that Country was discovered, and how it was conquered by the *Spaniards*. Lastly, the Author mentions the several Attempts made by the *English* and *Dutch* along the Coast of *Chili*, from the first Expedition by Sir *Francis Drake* to this present Time. This Account, taken from the best Authors, to which Captain *Cooke* has added his own Observations, must needs be very acceptable to many Readers, since they will find in this Book the Substance of what is only to be found in several Writers. I shall take notice of some few Passages, that are most proper to be inserted here.

Baco Nunez de Balboa, Governor of *Darien*, was the first *European*, who travelling over the *Isthmus of America*, discovered the *South-Sea*, to which he gave that Name, as lying S. of that part of the *American* *Continent* That Discovery being made by Land, what remain'd was to find out a Passage or Communication between the Two Seas for the Con-

* The Author's Description of the *South-Sea*-Coasts is the more valuable, because it is taken from the Manuscript *Coasting-Pilots*, composed by the ablest *Spanish* Sailors, and improved by the constant Practice of about Two Hundred Years. They were found in the *Acapulco*-Ship taken by Captain *Cooke* and his Company.

veniency

veniency of Trade. To this end many Attempts have been made by the North-West; but they all proved unsuccessful.

Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese, was the first, who undertook to sail from Europe into the South Sea. He set out from Spain with Five Ships the 10th of August 1519. and after many Dangers and great Difficulties, being come to 52 Degrees of South Latitude, found the Passage, since call'd from him the *Streights of Magellan*. Those Streights are about 110 Leagues in Length, in some Places wide, and in others not above Half a League * in Breadth. He made his way through, and being arrived in the South-Sea, went on to the *East-Indies*; but he was kill'd in the little Isle of Zebu, one of those now call'd the *Philippine Islands*. One of his Ships forsook him at the *Streights of his Name*; and of the other Four, one only, call'd *the Victory*, returned into *Spain*, under the Command of *John Sebastian Cano*, being the first that sailed round the World, and came from the South-Sea into *Europe*.

In the Year 1539. *Alonso de Camargo* sailed from *Spain* with three Ships for *Peru*, pass'd the *Streights* with great Difficulty, and arrived safe at the Port of *Arequipa* in *Peru*: one of his Ships was cast away, and the third returned to *Spain*. After *Camargo*, *Don Garcia de Loaysa*, and other *Spaniards* went over those *Streights*; but all their Voyages proved unfortunate.

The Wealth of *Peru* tempted Sir *Francis Drake* to undertake that Voyage. He sailed from *Plymouth* with Five Ships and Barks, the 15th of November 1577. went into the South-Sea through the *Streights of Magellan*, sailed along the Western Coast of *America* to 43 Degrees of Northern Latitude; and having plunder'd some considerable Places on the Coast, and got a rich Booty at Sea, return'd by the *East-Indies* and *Cape of Good Hope*, being the second that sailed round the World.

His Success put Sir *Thomas Candish* upon the like Attempt in the Year 1586, which he performed.

The next, that passed those *Streights*, and sailed round the World, was *Oliver Noort*, a *Dutchman*, in the Year 1598.

Sebald de Wert ventured upon the same Voyage; but most of his Men perished in the *Streights*, where he was confined by the Weather for the Space of nine Months, and at last return'd the same way he went.

George Spilbergen was more fortunate: He return'd Home safe, after he had gone round the whole Earth.

The great Difficulty of going through the *Streights of Magellan* moved others to try another way. The first who did it, were *William Cornelison Schouten*, and *Isaac le Maire*. They set out from *Holland* the 14th of June 1616. and on the 25th of January 1617. having left the *Streights of Magellan* to the West, and held on their Course to the South, enter'd a small *Streight* in the Latitude of 56 Degrees, made by a Point running out from *Tierra del Fuego*, on the West, and an Island they discovered to the East, which they call'd *the States-land*. This *Streight*, which those Discoverers call'd *the Strait of le Maire*, is of no length, and immediately leads into an open Sea, through which they sailed round *Tierra del Fuego*, into the South-Sea.

The Lovers of Geography will doubtless be very well pleased with the Author's Description of the Coasts of the Kingdom of *Chili*, from the *Spanish Charts* above-mention'd. That large Kingdom begins in 27 Degrees of Southern Latitude, and extends to 47. according to those Charts, being 400 Leagues in Length. The Breadth of it in some Parts is 20, and in others 30 Leagues from the Sea to the *Andes*, that vast Chain of Mountains, which runs a-cross from North to South. That Countrey lies generally in a happy Climate, is very Fruitful, and abounds with all Sorts of Cattel, and with Mines of Gold, Silver, Copper, Tin, Quicksilver, and Lead. The Ridge of Mountains call'd *Andes*, runs about 1500 Leagues in Length, and in many Places is 40 Leagues broad. There are fourteen burning Mountains along that Ridge, which frequently throw out Fire and Smoke. Those who desire to have a Notion of the Kingdom of *Chili*, may consult the Author, whose Account of that Countrey, tho short, will prove very Satisfactory. But to return to the Isle of *Juan Fernandes*.

* Others say the narrowest Parts of those *Streights* are larger than half a League.

Captain Cooke having mentioned what others say of that uninhabited Island, gives us his own Description of it. He observes that it is about six Leagues long, and about three in Breadth. " In every Bay (says he) " there are such Multitudes of great Sea- " Lions, and Seals of several Sorts, all " with excellent Furs, that we could scarce " walk along the Shore for them, as they " lay about in Flocks, like Sheep, the young " ones bleating like Lambs. Some of the " Sea-Lions are as big as our English Oxen, " and roar like Lions. They cut near a Foot " in Fat, have short Hair of a light Colour. " — I suppose they feed on Grass " and Fish; for they come Ashore with the " help of their two Fore-feet, and draw " their hinder Part after them, and lie in " great Numbers in the Sun. These we " kill chiefly to make Oil, which is very " good; but it is a hard Matter to kill " them. — Both these (the Seals) and " the Lions are so thick on the Shore, that " we were forced to drive them away be- " fore we could Land, being so numerous, " that it is scarce credible to those who have " not seen them; and they make a most pro- " digious Noise. Besides, we met with " such Plenty of Fish — that in four " Hours two Men in a Boat near the Shore, " in five or six Fathom Water, might take " enough to serve two hundred Men". The Readers will find here the Figures of the Sea-Lions, &c. And a curious Description of the Cabbage-Trees.

On the 13th of Feb. (1709) the two Ships sail'd from the Isle of Juan Fernandez, and on the 16th of March arrived at the Isle of Lobos *. It lies in 6 Degrees 5 Minutes South-Latitude, about 16 Leagues from the Continent, being about six Miles in Compass: It is very barren, and affords neither Wood nor Water. Having left that Island, they took several Prizes, and then attack'd in the Month of April the Town of Guayaquil, which they took and ransom'd. The Author gives us a Description of that Town; and then makes this Observation. " By

* So named from the vast Multitude of Seals, which the Spaniards call Lobos marinos, that is, Sea-Wolves.

" what is here said, it may be observed, " that the Accounts of the Town of Guayaquil in some People's former Voyages, " are altogether erroneous, and not to be " credited.

From thence Captain Cooke sailed for the Galapagos-Islands; but did not come to an Anchor in any of them. In June he anchor'd near the Isle of Gorgona, where he continued till the 6th of August, on which Day he received a Commission to command a Ship † call'd the Marquis. It was resolved, in that Island to plunder a Village upon the Continent, which was immediately performed. The Isle of Gorgona lies in the Northern Latitude of three Degrees, and is not above three or four Leagues in Compass.

The Author breaks off again the Account of his Voyage, to give us a Description of Peru, and begins with the Sea Coast; wherein he follows the Spanish Coasting-Pilot aforesay'd. He observes the Distance between all the Ports, Bays, and Creeks of that large Kingdom. He mentions the Islands lying along the Coast, the Shoals, Winds, Currents, &c. He describes from the best Authors the several Provinces of Peru, and gives an Account of their Product. He proceeds to treat of the Customs, Religion, &c. of the ancient Peruvians, before they were subdued by the Incas; of the Reign, and Conquests of the Incas, their Laws, Government, &c. In the next Place, the Author gives an Historical Account of the Discovery and Conquest of Peru by the Spaniards, of several Towns built by them, of several Rebellions and Tumults suppressed, &c. Lastly, he takes notice of the English and Dutch, who have made Attempts upon the Coasts of Peru, since its first Discovery to this time, and of the Success of their Expeditions.

Captain Cooke, not contented to give us an Account of the River of the Amazons, as it is to be found in several Authors, has inserted a new Map of that great River, drawn by the Jesuits in Peru, printed in 1707. at Quito in the same Kingdom, and dedicated to Philip V. That Map was found on Board one of the Ships taken in the

† One of the Prizes.

South-Sea: It contains the following Words written in the Spanish Language.

" THIS Famous River, the greatest in the known World, sometimes call'd of the *Amazons*, and sometimes of *Orellana*, is the true *Maragnon*, a Name given it by the ablest Cosmographers, from its very Source and upper Provinces. It rises in the Lake *Lauricocha*, near the City *Guanuco*, in the Kingdom of *Peru*, and runs (1800) Eighteen hundred Leagues, till it falls into the North-Sea, forming 84 Mouths. Near the City *Borja* it draws up into a Streight call'd *el Pongo*, only 25 Yards in Breadth, and three Leagues in length; and consequently so very rapid, that Boats run down it in a quarter of an Hour. Both the Banks of it, from the City *Jaen*, in the Province of *Bracamoros*, where it begins to be Navigable, down to the Sea, are covered with Woods of very tall Trees, among which is Timber of all Colours, abundance of *Cacao*, *Zarzaparilla*, and the Bark they call *Gloves*, used for dressing of Meat, and Dying. Amoag the innumerable Variety of Fish it produces, the most singular is the *Mannati*, or *Sea-Cow*, so call'd from its Resemblance. It feeds on Grass along the Banks, and the Female brings forth and suckles her young. It also produces vast plenty of Tortoises, Armadillos, Alligators or Crocodiles, and some Snakes of such a prodigious Magnitude, that they swallow a Man. On the Mountains there are fierce *Tigers*, wild *Boars*, very many *Dantas*, being a Species of wild *Buffaloes*, and many other sorts of Animals of several Colours in the Plains. All the length of it is peopled by barbarous Nations: The most noted are set down in this Map, especially on the Rivers that fall into it, some of which are reported to carry much Gold. The *Portuguese* have some Towns about the Mouth of it, and a Fort on *Rio Negro*, or the black River".

It appears from the same Map, that the Jesuits have a very extensive Mission along the River of the *Amazons*, whither they began to send Missionaries in the Year 1638. Their chief Settlement is in the City of *St. Francis of Borja*, in the Province of the

Maines, Three Hundred Leagues from *Quito*. The Barbarians have kill'd several Jesuits, whose Names are inserted in the Map. The Society has, (besides the Parish of *Borja*, and its Dependencies) 39 Towns founded by their Labour in Four several Districts. We are told, that the Jesuits have converted and baptized 26000 People, and that they have contracted Friendship with several numerous Nations, which they hope to convert.

The Account of this curious Voyage will be continued.

II.

PROBLEMES DE PHYSIQUE.

I. Scavoir, si la génération du Fœtus depend ou non de sa nourriture. II. S'il y a ou non entre luy & la femme une reciproque circulation. III. Si le Fœtus se nourrit d'un pretendu lait de la matrice, ou du sang de sa mère. IV. Si devenu fort il suce ou non ce lait supposé. V. Si sa vie dépend ou non de celle de sa mère. VI. Si l'enfant sort de la matrice, parcequ'il est privé d'aliment, ou parcequ'il en est chassé par la contraction de cette partie: resolus by M. MERY, l'un des Anatomistes de l'Academie Royale des Sciences, & Maître Chirurgien de l'Hotel-Dieu de Paris. A Paris, chez Jean Boudot, Imprimeur ordinaire du Roy & de l'Academie Royale des Sciences, rue S. Jacques, au Soleil d'Or.

MDCCXII.

That is, PHYSICAL PROBLEMS.

I. Whether the Generation of the Fœtus depends upon its Nourishment.
II. Whether there is a mutual Circulation.

lation between the Foetus and the Mother. III. Whether the Foetus is nourish'd with the pretended Milk of the Womb, or with the Blood of the Mother. IV. Whether, when it grows strong, it sucks that pretended Milk. V. Whether its Life depends upon that of its Mother. VI. Whether the Child comes out of the Womb, because it wants nourishment, or because it is thrust out by the Contraction of that Part. Resolved by Mr. MERY one of the Anatomists of the Royal Academy of Sciences, and Chirurgeon of the Hotel-Dieu at Paris. Paris. 1712. in. 4to. pagg. 31.

" **T**HIS Book will not come into England; and therefore I shall present the Readers with the following Extract taken from the *Journal des Scavans*".

THESSE Dissertations, which are newly come out, have been occasioned by a Thesis * maintained last Year in the Schools of Physick at Paris. Dr. Falconet the Son, who was the Author of that Thesis, explained his Opinion about the Formation and Nourishment of the *Fœtus*. He undertook particularly to confute those, who believe that the Child lives upon the Mother's Blood. That Opinion, which most of the Ancients followed, appeared to him contrary to the new Discoveries of the Philosophers, who perceiving in the place wherein the Child is nourished, a milky Liquor separated from the Mother's Blood, infer'd from it, that such a Liquor was only designed for the Nourishment of the Child. But among those who are of this Opinion, some believe still that there is some Communication between the Mother's Blood, and that of the Child — †.

* An Extract of that Thesis may be seen in the 1st Volume of these Memoirs, pag. 227.

† I omit here a short Account of Dr. Falconet's System, not to repeat what has been already said upon that Subject in the 1st Volume of these Memoirs.

Mr. Mery, whom Dr. Falconet did not name in his Thesis, being contented to call him a Learned Anatomist, to express his Esteem for him, thought himself obliged to attack an Opinion contrary to his Doctrine. He could not well bear, that what he had advanced as a Demonstration in the *Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences*, should be call'd an Error, in the publick Schools of Physick, by a Doctor whose Capacity and Experience he himself acknowledges in several Places. Wherefore he undertakes to shew that it is not true, that the Generation of the Foetus does less depend upon its Nourishment, than its Growth and Perfection. Any one (says he) who maintains such a Proposition, must believe, that the Mouth was first open'd by the Food conveyed into the Stomach of the Child; the Anus, by the coming out of the *Mæconium*; the *Arteria Trachea*, by the Air going into the Lungs; and all the Vessels, by the Liquors. But since the Reception and Distribution of the Food require that the Conduits should be ready made, that it may be received and distributed to all the Parts; it follows that the Formation of the Embryo does not depend upon its Nourishment. Mr. Mery adds, that a Child in the Mother's Womb does not receive its Nourishment through the Mouth, because sucking depends upon Respiration; but since the *Fœtus* does not breath in the Womb, 'tis plain it cannot suck. To be convinced that a Child cannot suck without breathing, one needs only stop his Nose, whilst he draws the Milk of his Nurse; and it will appear that he can suck no longer, unless he opens his Mouth to breath. Many *Fœtus's* have been seen, some whereof had their Mouth and Nose stopt, and others had no Head; and yet they appeared as well fed as those that had not the same Imperfections: But because those monstrous *Fœtus's* could receive no Nourishment but through the Navel-String; 'tis plain, that a *Fœtus* does not suck in the Womb at any time. 'Tis therefore a Chimerical Thing to affirm, that a Milky Juice is conveyed from the Womb into the *Amnios* through invisible Conduits, to be taken into the Mouth of the *Fœtus*, as soon as it can suck.

Besides, the Author maintains against Dr. Falconet, that a Child from the time of its Conception is fastened to the Womb by the Membranes of the *Placenta* formed at the same

same time. If it be true, as Dr. Falconet pretends, that when a Woman begins to be with Child, the *Fœtus* does not stick to the Womb, by the *Placenta*, nor by the Membranes, and that therefore the Mother's Blood cannot serve for its Nourishment, because that Blood would fall into the Womb, and could not be conveyed into the Mouths of the Receptacles of the *Placenta*; it must be confess that in the same Case the milky Juice could not get into them neither, because the same Reason ought to make us believe that the lacteal Conduits are not less stopt at that time, than the other Vessels. And therefore, according to Mr. Mery, Dr. Falconet's Argument comes to nothing by his own Principles. He also calls another Assertion of Dr. Falconet a Chimerical Thing, *viz.* that when a Woman is near her time, all the Vessels of the Womb are pressed by the Body of the Child, which deprives him of his Nourishment, by drying up the Veins of the *Placenta*. He confutes that Assertion with several Reasons and Experiments, which we shall not insert here, because the narrow Bounds of our Extracts do not allow of it.

Dr. Falconet pretends, that the Mother's Blood is not proper for the Nourishment of the Child, and that a milky Liquor fits him better. Mr. Mery maintains the contrary, and proves it in the following Manner. "When a Child is born, he only sucks his Mother's Milk: That Milk is changed into Chyle in his Stomach; and then that Chyle being conveyed into the left *Vena Subclavia*, where it mixes with the Blood, is converted into its Nature. Lastly, the Blood is distributed through the Arteries to all the Parts for their Nourishment: From whence it ought to be inferred, that the Mother's Blood is much more proper to nourish the *Fœtus*, than the pretended Milk of the Womb, since the Blood is in both of them the immediate Nourishment of the Parts, and does not want to undergo several Changes, which the uterine Milk should go through before it could nourish them". The Author alledges the Observations which he made in the Royal Academy of Sciences, and which have been inserted in the Memoirs. "By taking off the *Placenta* from the Bottom of the Womb, I shew-

"ed (says he) to that Illustrious Assembly, "1. That the Surfaces by which those two Parts are joined together, are destitute of Membranes. 2. That their Vessels are open in those two Surfaces. 3. That the Body of the Womb is a hollow Muscle 4. That it has no Glands. From whence then (says Mr. Mery) could that milky Juice come, which the *Fœtus* receives from the Womb, according to Dr. Falconet? Not one drop came out, when I squeezed the Womb and the *Placenta*; and consequently Dr. Falconet should not affirm that it is very plentiful. 'Tis plain, (says the Author in another Place,) that he never examined the *Placenta* of a Child, nor the Womb of a Woman, who died after her Delivery".

In the History of the Academy of Sciences Mr. Mery mentions a Woman with Child, who lost her Life by a great Fall, and whose Vessels, and also those of her Child, were found destitute of Blood. Which seems to prove that there is a mutual Circulation between the Mother's Blood and that of the *Fœtus*, since the Loss of the one occasioned the Loss of the other. Dr. Falconet was not convinced by an Experiment attested by Mr. Mery. He ascribes that Event to other Causes, which he explains in his Thesis. He maintains that an uncertain Experiment, which cannot be renewed at all times, and which may arise from many extraneous Causes, cannot prevail above an Experiment which he made upon a Bitch with young; an Experiment (says he) which every Body can make, and the truth whereof may be demonstrated at any time. Mr. Mery answers that he has had no Occasion to make such an Experiment, and that comparative Anatomy can never be depended upon. He adds, that he has been informed by a Friend of Dr. Falconet, that he himself had not made that Experiment, and that he got a Scholar to make it for him. What is surprising, is, that the thing is neither very difficult nor extraordinary. We do not pretend to give our Judgment about this Subject: We only invite the Publick to examine thoroughly a Question, that is worthy of their Curiosity.

PARIS.

A Book concerning the Knights of Malta, composed from the Memoirs of a Knight of that Order, has been lately publish'd.

Instructions sur les principaux devoirs des Chevaliers de Malte, dressées par l'Auteur du Catéchisme de Montpellier, sur les Mémoires d'un Chevalier de Malte : à l'usage des Chevaliers, de leurs Confesseurs, & de tous ceux qui veulent entrer ou faire entrer leurs enfans dans cet Ordre ; où l'on trouvera des vérités importantes pour toutes sortes d'états. Paris. 1712. in 120. pagg. 377.

This Book is divided into XIII. Chapters. The Ist contains a general Notion of the Knights of Malta. The IId treats of the Origin of that Order, and of the Usefulness of Military Orders in general. The IIId shews what sort of Men may be admitted Knights of Malta, and the different Ages of their Admission. In the IVth, the Author explains the Nature of Commanderies, and shews how they are to be received and administered. The Vth concerns this Question, Whether it be lawful to sell or to buy a Commandery. A general Notion of the Duties of all those, who belong to the Order of Malta, is to be found in the VIth Chapter. The regular Profession of the Knights makes the Subject of the VIIth. In the VIIIth, IXth, and Xth, the Author enlarges upon the Vows of the Knights of Malta, and shews how they may be performed. The XIth treats of the regular Habit, which the profess'd Knights ought to wear at all times. The Two last Chapters concern the Profession of Arms of the Knights of Malta, and shew upon what Occasion they may be allowed to serve in the Armies of Christian Princes, and what is to be observed in order to be admitted a Knight.

The Author inveighs against the Lewdness of some Knights, and mentions a Statute of *Raimond du Puy*, which, in all Probabili-

ty, was never put in Execution. " If any of them (says that Great Master) happens to be guilty of Fornication, and if it be a private Sin, he shall make a private Penance for it, which shall be laid upon him in Proportion to his Fault. But if it be a publick Sin, he shall be punish'd publicly. To that end, upon a Sunday, when the People are gone out of the Church, in that Place where the Sin has been committed, the Criminal shall be stript before every Body, and severely whipt and lash'd with Straps or Rods, by the Superior Master, or by some Brother appointed by the Great Master ; and then he shall be expelled from the Order".

A Friend of the late Mr. Thiers has undertaken to vindicate his Dissertation concerning the Place where lies the Body of St. Firmin Confessor. He brings in upon the Stage the Ghost of Mr. Thiers, making heavy Complaints against M. Lefèvre.

L'Ombre de M. Thiers, ou Réponse à la Dissertation de M. Lefèvre sur la Translation de S. Firmin le Confesseur, troisième Evêque d'Amiens, avec une Critique de la vie de S. Salve, aussi Evêque de la même ville. Liège (or rather Paris) 1712. in 12. Pagg. 227.

Mr. Thiers's Ghost says, that " as soon as Father Mabillon saw the Catacombe †, he was fully persuaded that it contained the Graves of the first Bishops of Amiens ; and when he went down into it, he said he must pull of his Shoes, because he was treading upon Holy Ground. He lay with great Devotion upon the Tomb of St. Firmin Confessor, and said the Name engraved upon it was plainly that of the Holy Bishop, and that no doubt could be made of it".

* See above Pag. 56.

† Viz. In the Abby of St. Acheul at Amiens.